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Title : Need to open Regional Directorate at Srinagar for promotion of handicrafts business in J&K and Ladakh region.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (BARAMULLA):Sir, Age old trade of Kashmir Province is the carpet weaving and the handicrafts. Among other things, the exquisite crafts of Kashmir are very well know all over the world but the export of these items make a very little contribution in the over all exports of the country.

There is no denying the fact the Textile Ministry is trying to make contribution to the sustenance of trade by floating some sachems for the benefits of craftsmen. And imparting training for skill up gradation in some areas of the valley but the benefits and efforts of the Government are not percolating down because of remote control of Regional directorate. The Regional Directorate is operating form Delhi. The irony of the situation is that the accounts branch for the paraphernalia of 1054 employees of All India Handicraft (J&K) is operating from Jammu.

In order to consolidate the efforts of the Government to make all the Central Government schemes in textile sector, effective in the remote areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Regional directorate for J&D should be created and the office of Regional Director should be located at Srinagar. So I reiterate the demand of opening the regional Directorate at Srinagar.